



By the King.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

For Restraint of Killing, Dressing, and Eating of Flesh in *Lent*, or on Fish-days,
appointed by the Law to be observed.

CHARLES R.



Whereas divers good Laws and Statutes have heretofore with great care and providence been made and enacted for the due Observation of *Lent*, and other days appointed for Fish-days, as well for the sparing and increase of Flesh-victuals, as for the maintenance of the Navy and Shipping of this Realm, by the encouragement of Fishermen to go to the Seas for the taking of Fish; which Laws and Politick Constitutions have heretofore been quickned by sundry Proclamations, and other Acts and Ordinances of State in the times of Our Royal Predecessors. And whereas notwithstanding so many good Provisions heretofore had and made in that kinde, all sorts of people have for many years last past taken upon them such a Liberty to Kill, Dress, and Eat Flesh in the *Lent* season, and on other days and times prohibited, as now it is become so inveterate an evil, that it will require more then ordinary care to redress the same.

And taking notice of a Proclamation heretofore published in the time of Our Royal Father of ever blessed memory, for the restraining of Killing, Dressing, and Eating of Flesh in the time of *Lent*, and other days and times prohibited by the Laws, to the end that the same may now again be revived and quickned for the prevention of so great and growing a mischief and inconvenience as may happen to Our whole Kingdome, if so great a liberty should be permitted to kill, dress, and utter Flesh in the *Lent*-season, and on other dayes and times prohibited by Law, as of late yeares there hath been.

We therefore much affecting the Reformation of so great and growing an Evil, which is so great an Enemy to the Plenty of this Our Kingdome, have thought fit thus timely (the better to take away all pretences of excuse) to express Our Self and our Royal Commandment in this behalf, wherof We shall expect, and doe require from all Our loving Subjects, that due notice be taken, and that a strict conformity be yielded thereunto.

And to the aboyding of Inconveniencies hereafter, Our will and pleasure is, That the Lord Mayor of our City of London, and the Justices of Peace of Our City of Westminster and the Liberties thereof, shall yearly before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, Keepers of Ordinary Tables, Cooks, Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouse-keepers, and Taverners, within the said Cities and Liberties thereof, to appeare before them, And shall take Recognizances with two sufficient Sureties of every of them (viz.) the Principal in Forty pounds, and their Sureties in Twenty pounds apiece to Our use, That the Butchers shall kill no Flesh, and that the other persons before-mentioned shall not dresse, nor suffer any Flesh to be eaten in their houses in the Lent time, or at any time prohibited, contrary to Law.

And to the end that Fishermen may employ themselves at Sea with better encouragement then heretofore, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselves with such store from time to time hereafter as shall be expedient as well for the provision of the City, as for selling the same at reasonable rates, We will that they take notice of this Our Commandment and constant Resolution for observance of Lent and Fish-daves, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And furthermore, as We think it fit that every man should be a rule of order and abstinence in his own house, as well in respect of the publick, as of his private ease and benefit, so We streightly charge and command all Inholders, keepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Cooks, Alehouse-keepers, and Taverners, not to make any supper for any person or persons whatsoever upon Friday nights, either in Lent or out of Lent, nor suffer any meat to be then dressed, uttered, sold, or eaten in their houses, upon pain of such punishment as is due to those that shall contemn Our Royall Pleasure and Commandment, and as by due course of the Lawes may be inflicted.

And forasmuch as upon further advice and consideration had of this Inconvenience, which too much liberty hath occasioned, We conceive that the restraint of killing and dressing of Flesh is no sufficient remedy alone for these Mischiefs, unless there be better care also taken to suppress the unlawful and inordinate eating of Flesh in the time of Lent, and on other daves and times prohibited, wherewith Our Subjects have for severall years past accustomed themselves, rather for Delicacy then for Necessity. It is therefore Our Royal will and pleasure, and accordingly We do hereby streightly prohibit and forbid all Our Subjects, of what degree or quality soever within this Realm, to eat any manner of Flesh in the time of Lent, or on other daves now usually observed as Fish-daves, without a special Licence first obtained from the Bishop of the Diocess, or such other as by the Law have power to give Licence in that behalf, according to Our Lawes in that case provided, which We will and command shall be sparingly granted.

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though more hath been heretofore limited to be taken by the Town-Clerks, and Clerks of the Peace of the several Counties, for taking and certifying any such Recognizances, nor shall give any Fee or Reward for returning the same into Our Exchequer.

And Lastly, for that the Fishmongers (upon the observation of the aforesaid Orders) may perhaps take occasion thereby to inhaunce the prices as well of Fresh as Sea-fish, We do therefore hereby further charge and command all Fishmongers whatsoever, That they Sell and utter their Fish at moderate and usual Rates and Prices. And that all Justices of Peace, Mayors, Bayliffs, and other Officers, as well within Liberties as without, to whom it shall appertain, shall from time to time take such Order with the said Fishmongers, that Our Subjects be not grieved by any such Inhaancement or increase of Prices upon Fish, upon pain of Our high displeasure, and such further punishment as may be inflicted upon them by Our Lawes.

Given at Our Court at *Whitehall*, the Twenty ninth day of *January*, in the Twelfth Year of Our Reign, One thousand six hundred and sixty.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

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